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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM, TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON HOUSING FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is in need of more affordable housing for  
2 low- and moderate-income households; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the 2006 report of the Joint Legislative Housing  
5 and Homeless Task Force established by Act 196, Session Laws of  
6 Hawaii 2005, states that an estimated 44,190 housing units are  
7 projected to be needed statewide between 2005-2009; and  
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9 WHEREAS, most essential workers, that is, teachers, police  
10 officers, firefighters, and other emergency responders would be  
11 considered moderate-income individuals; and  
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13 WHEREAS, even households and individuals with moderate  
14 incomes have been priced out of Hawaii's housing market and are  
15 sometimes forced to move out of state to achieve an improved  
16 lifestyle and the possibility of homeownership; and  
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18 WHEREAS, additionally, the State and counties have  
19 experienced difficulty in recruiting and retaining essential  
20 workers, particularly when other states actively recruit in  
21 Hawaii; and  
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23 WHEREAS, the primary expense of most households is housing;  
24 and  
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26 WHEREAS, in addition to the cost of housing and the loss of  
27 essential workers to other states, some rural areas of the state  
28 have difficulty recruiting and retaining essential workers  
29 because of the remote location and difficult commute; and



WHEREAS, providing affordable housing to Hawaii's essential workers would solve several problems, including improving retention of these workers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, that the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC), in collaboration with the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, is requested to conduct a study on housing for essential workers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study should include, but not be limited to:

- (1) The possibility of providing affordable housing for essential workers;
- (2) Creating a mortgage loan assistance or loan forgiveness program for essential workers;
- (3) Providing incentives specifically for essential workers willing to work in a rural area experiencing shortages of those workers;
- (4) Providing relocation costs; and
- (5) Suggested legislation;

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director of HHFDC and the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

OFFERED BY:

HR HMS 2007-2399



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